GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2865
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2005
CITIES WITHOUT AIR/DOORDARSHAN BROADCASTING FACILITY
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan/AIR facility has been provided in all the cities/towns in the country;

(b) if not, the name of the cities/towns where telecasting/broadcasting facility of Doordarshan/All India Radio has not been provided so far in the country and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the faciltiy would be provided in these cities/towns?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a), (b) & (c) : While all the cities / towns in the country may not have AIR and Doordarshan Kendras, the existing radio stations and Doordarshan transmitters provide primary grade terrestrial coverage to about 99.13 % and 99.7% population respectively in the country.

In addition, to ensure total coverage a multi-channel facility with a bouquet of 33 TV and 12 radio channels has been provided through "DD Direct-Plus" − free-to-air DTH service of Doordarshan, launched in December, 2004 to provide coverage to hitherto uncovered and under-served areas. It is possible to receive DTH signals anywhere in the country (except Andaman & Nicobar Islands) with the help of a small sized dish receive unit.

In view of the coverage provided by the DTH facility, no new Doordarshan transmitters are envisaged to be set up. Schemes for terrestrial expansion of radio coverage under implementation will be completed during the 10th Plan depending upon approvals and availability of funds.